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Appl. NO.: 10/566,773

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

1. (Currently amended) An electric machine, comprising:

a housing defining an axis;

a coolant entry arranged on one side of the housing;

a cylindrical magnet arrangement received in the housing and defining a circumference; and

a cooling device for cooling the magnet arrangement, wherein the cooling device has a ring-shaped coolant channel extending radially outside the magnet arrangement about the an outer circumference of the magnet arrangement and being fluidly connected with the coolant entry to receive incoming coolant from the coolant entry and to distribute the incoming coolant essentially uniformly about the circumference of the cylindrical magnet arrangement, said cooling device having and separate circumferential rectilinear axial channels in fluid communication with the coolant channel to guide the coolant in axial direction to an opposite side of the housing, wherein the ring-shaped coolant channel and the axial channels are configured such that incoming coolant is first distributed by the ring-shaped coolant channel in a circumferential direction before entering the axial channels and flowing essentially uniformly about the circumference of the cylindrical magnet arrangement.

2. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coolant channel is part of the housing.

3.-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the magnet arrangement has a laminated core forming a wall of the coolant channel.

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6. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

coolant channel is arranged upstream of the cylindrical magnet arrangement, as

viewed in an axial direction.

7. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

coolant channel is open in one or both axial directions, and further comprising a

bearing shield and/or an annular cover for covering the coolant channel.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, further

comprising a motor terminal junction box, wherein the coolant channel has a

reduced dimension in a radial direction in a region of the motor terminal junction

box.

10. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

housing is constructed in the form of a pressure plate structure.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for cooling an electric machine having a cylindrical

magnet arrangement, comprising the steps of:

introducing a coolant stream, and

distributing the coolant stream, after being introduced into the electric

machine at commencement of a cooling operation, essentially uniformly about a

circumference of the magnet arrangement.

12. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coolant stream is

distributed on the magnet arrangement completely about the circumference

before conducted in a radial or axial direction.

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13. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coolant stream, when being conducted around the magnet arrangement in a circumferential

direction, is conducted directly past a laminated core of the magnet arrangement.

14. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coolant stream is

distributed in a circumferential direction upstream of the cylindrical magnet

arrangement in an axial direction, before being conducted about the magnet

arrangement.

15. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the coolant stream,

after being distributed in the circumferential direction, is conducted in both axial

directions.

16. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

housing has opposite drive and non-drive sides, said coolant entry being

arranged on the non-drive side.

17. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

coolant entry is arranged on the coolant channel axially with respect to the

cylindrical magnet arrangement.

18. (Previously presented) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

coolant channel has a cross section which is greater than a summed cross

section of the axial channels.

19. (New) The electric machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the axial

channels is defined by a cross section which is smaller than a cross section of

the ring-shaped coolant channel so that a flow resistance applied by the ring-

shaped coolant channel is smaller than a flow resistance applied by the axial

channels to thereby force the coolant to flow first in the ring-shaped coolant

channel in the circumferential direction.

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